

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9265

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TAGS: PINS ET

SUB: AP/UP POLL REPORT ON AOU SEC GEN RESIGNATION

REF: STATE 044639

FOR S/PRS AND AF/RA

ADDIS ABABA, JUNE 1 - ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (AOU)
SEC GEN NZO EKANGAI DISCLIED SATURDAY THAT HE HAS TENDERED HIS
RESIGANATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21 AT THE LATEST AFTER SERVING
ONLY TWO OF HIS FOUR HEARS TERM.

CONFRIMING PERSISTENT SPECULATIONS THAT HE HAS GIVEN NOTICE
OF RESIGNATION, EKANGAKI, 40, OF WEST CAMEROUN, SAID HE WAS
RESIGNING FOR PERSONAL REASONS AND HAD ASKED CURRENT OAU
CHAIRMAN, NIGERIA'S GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON, TO INFORM OTHER AOU
HEADS OF HIS RESIGNATION NOTICE.

IN A LETTER TO GOWON DATED MAY 24, EKANGAKI SAID HE
WANTS AOU HEADS MEETING IN SOMALI CAPITAL OF MOGAIDISCO
IN TWO WEEKS TIME FOR THIEIR ANNUAL SUMMIT TO DECIDE ON
HIS REISGNATION, SO THAT -IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INDICATE
TO ME AT MOGADISICIO THE PERSON TO WHO I MAY HAND OVER."
EKANGAKI WAS ELECTED OAU CHIEF AT RABAT SUMMIT TWO YEARS
AGO JUNE 15.

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"I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HOW SPIRITUALLY GRATIFYING IT HAS BEEN

FOR ME TO SERVE OUR PEOPLE THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION FOR THIS PERIOD AND TO HAVE THE MORAL SATISFACTION THAT I TOO HAVE ENDEAVOURED DEVOTEDLY, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY AND TO THE UTMOST OF MY CAPACITIES, TO MAKE OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOSTERING OF OUR COMMON IDEALS AND PURPOSES," HE SAID IN HIS LETTER TO GOWON.

EKANGAKI MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AOU LONG AFTER THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT.

"I SHALL, FOR PERSONAL REASONS, RELINQUISH MY PRESENT POST ON AUG 31, 1974, AT THE LATEST," HE SAID.

HIS INTENTION OF RESIGNATION FIRST SURFACED EARLY THIS YEAR FOLLOWING CRITICISMS OF AN OIL CONSULTANCY DEAL HE SIGNED WITH THE LONDON-BASED FIRM OF LONRHO. ALTHOUGH EKANGAKI SAID HE WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE AOU AD HOC COMMITTEE ON OIL TO ENTER THE DEAL, SEVERAL EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES BITTERLY ATTACKED THE DEAL BECAUSE OF LONRHO'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AT THAT TIME EKANGAKI SAID HE WOULD RESIGN IF HIS ACTION IN ENTERING AN AGREEMENT WITH LONRHO. THE AGREEMENT WAS LATER ABROGATED AT LONRHO'S REQUEST.

EKANGAKI WAS TO HAVE GIVEN A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE LONRHO AFFAIR AT THE MOGADISCIO AOU SUMMIT JUNE 12-15, AND HIS RESIGNATION TODAY CAME AS A SHOCK TO AFRICAN DIPLOMATS.

EKANGAKI SUCCEEDED CONTROVERSIAL DIALLO TELLI OF GUINEA AS OAU HEAD. TELLI, WHO SERVED FOR EIGHT YEARS WAS HIS RIVAL CONTENDER AT RABAT TWO YEARS AGO. EKANGAKI WAS CAMEROON'S MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS BEFORE JOINING THE AOU. HE WAS EDUCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, NIGERIA, AND SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN.

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